

No 2679.

An Account of what Woven Silks have been brought from Holland in the Months of November and December, 1692. And are entered in the Ports of London and Ipswich, Viz.

	Pound Weight.	
In November	----4083	} Of which Velvets but 181
December	-----2955	

In all at Ipswich 7038 and are modestly valued at 20000 l.

In November	----1996
December	-----325

In all at London 2321 and are modestly valued at 6960 l.

Now deducting  $\frac{5}{16}$  constant and necessary wast of all Thrown Silk, before and in the Weaving thereof here is about 66 Bales in weight of Silk ready woven purchast without the Sale of one shred of English Cloath.

The Hollanders, &c. are inabled to Import Woven Silks into England, because they have Italian Silks 30 per Cent. and Turkey silks 20 per Cent. cheaper than the English, according as was calculated by the printed Price Currants in Holland some few Months past, for (since the petitioning this Parliament to be relieved) the prizes of silk hath lessen'd in England and (as the Turkey Merchants say) hath increased beyond the Seas, and will no doubt rise higher ~~then~~ in England if this present Bill miscarry.

The fine thin Woven silks fully manufactur'd, are not less worth than 3 l. 10 s. per l. weight so that the real Duty or Custom paid for them is not 10 per Cent. tho' 17 per Cent. is accounted at 40 s. per pound according to the Book of Rates. Such silks are Sarcenets, Alamodes, Lustings, &c. and were heretofore made only in France, but a great Manufacture of them are set up in Holland, and vast quantities of them are from thence imported, as appears by the abovesaid Entries; and for what Reason these Gentlemen would prevent the Manufacturing thereof here is to be admired, for if the Throwing silk in Holland be such a Dutch Interest, (and which we do not desire) is not the further Dying, Winding, Weaving, (with all its Appurtenances) Dressing and Sale thereof, a Dutch Interest with a Witness, is humbly submitted.

The Importation of Woven Silks as aforesaid lessens the Consumption of Turkey and Italian Silk, and consequently English Wooll, the Clothier will be dammaged, and the Silk Manufacture Totally lost to this Nation. For the Turkey Merchant and Throwers have been evidently relieved by the Prohibition of Turkey and India Silk, Thrown in Holland and Imported hither, which Silks (in case the present Bill pass into a Law) will remain Prohibited.

If the Turkey Merchant or Thrower (who attended the Committee to whom the Bill was referred) had thought fit to have offered Clauses about the *Onus Probandi*, or any other matter that they thought was defective in the Bill, no question but that the said Committee would gladly have accepted of such their Assistance, but it is likewise humbly submitted whether all Reasonable Offers were not omitted with a design to puzzle and perplex the Matter, thereby to destroy the Bill.

Letters from beyond the Seas, that came the 30th. of December 1692. do give account, That the French King hath made an Edict, That his Subjects shall take all Neutral Ships that have any of his Enemies Goods therein; That the Berkley Castle is lost, which was the only English Ship that would bring fine Silk before the Return of the Convoy not yet departed for Turkey; and that the *Sancta Chiaria*, (the only Genoese Ship that brings fine Silks,) departed without Company, and is in great danger not only from the French, but also from the Algerines, who have above Twenty Men of War in the Streights, in several Companies, one Party of them having lately met off Malaga, a *Po-lander* and a *Dane*, both Ships of Force, and burnt one and sunk the other: So that if any Accident befall the said Genoese Ship, (which God forbid,) the Silk Manufacture must necessarily be lost to this Nation, there being not at this time sufficient Quantities of fine Italian Silks to supply the Trade for Three Months, and the Manufacturers of Silk must go beyond the Seas for Employment.